



Early Childhood Education and Care

What is a Total Communication Approach?

We all communicate using a variety of different methods, we may use our body and face to show how we feel, we might use our voice to produce sounds and speech, or some people may use a picture or a device like a tablet to communicate. Each method is equally important and most of us use a combination of these to get our message across. Supporting a range of different methods to communicate is called a **Total Communication Approach**.

Using a Total Communication Approach helps us to be flexible and dynamic communicators. Most importantly total communication means respecting all the ways a child shares their thoughts, ideas and feelings.

We can use a Total Communication Approach by respecting how a child communicates and using everything around us to enhance our own communication.

Total Communication Approach

Uses a variety of communication methods such as:



Gestures



Expressions



Objects



Written Words



Devices



Speech and
Sounds



Body Language



Visuals



Key Word Sign



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How can you enhance the communication opportunities in your service?

Pursuing a Total Communication Approach aligns with the National Quality Standards Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice and Quality Area 5: Relationships with Children, and supports all five learning outcomes within the Early Years Learning Framework.